

Torrance, California
September 24, 1940

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, September 24, 1940 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held September 10, 1940 be approved as written. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles Department of Health, suggesting that Ordinance No. 299 (pertaining to regulation of certain animals and fowls) be amended or repealed to cover only zones where such restrictions are necessary.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the Ordinance Committee for investigation and report. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Fukuoka Juniors of Southern California, requesting use of the Civic Auditorium New Year's Eve for a dance.

Councilman Powell moved that the request be referred to the Building Committee. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Associated Assessment Engineers, advising that appraisals had been made of the one hundred and six parcels of property that were included in the City's application to the County of Los Angeles for purchase pursuant to certain provisions of the Political Code, and requesting a meeting with the Council for discussion of certain details regarding same.

September 30, 1940 at 4:45 P.M. was agreed upon as a suitable meeting date and Clerk Bartlett was instructed to notify Mr. Greig of the Associated Assessment Engineers to this effect.

A communication was read from the Torrance Factory Frolic General Committee, requesting installation of lights along El Prado by the City Electrician for the Factory Frolic to be held September 26, 27 and 28, 1940.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be complied with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Factory Frolic General Committee, inviting the Council to appear in the forthcoming Factory Frolic Parade to be held at 1:00 P.M. September 28, 1940.

Each Councilman, with the exception of Councilman Powell, agreed to make every effort to participate in the parade and Clerk Bartlett was instructed to notify the Factory Frolic Committee to this effect.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, requesting that the weeds be cleaned from the WALTERIA playgrounds and that a coat of paint be applied to the outside of the recreation building.

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization requesting that the trees on Park and Ward Streets be trimmed.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the Street Department, which motion was lost for want of a second when Street Superintendent Gascoigne advised that the requested trimming and weed cutting had been done.

A communication was read from Eugene H. Rosenthal, requesting refund of business license No. 0504, issued for operation of automatic bowling alley, but never used.

Councilman Powell moved that the refund be granted as requested. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from C. L. Hedlund, requesting rebate of \$3.75 on \$5.00 business license paid for operation of Brighton Hotel, said license having been used three months only. Councilman Murray moved that the request be refused. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from Mrs. N. Neil, 452 West School Street, Compton, requesting permission to build an auto court on Lots 19, 20, Block 3, Subdivision of Lot 30 of Meadow Park Tract.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the Planning Commission. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Coordinating Council, expressing approval of the plan of Father Fitzgerald for the rehabilitation of sanitary conditions in Pueblo, and urging favorable consideration of the plan. A similar communication was read from Ruth Woodcock, urging that some action be taken regarding the sewage system at Pueblo.

Engineer Jain advised that a trunk line runs within about four hundred feet of the area in question.

Mayor McGuire asked Attorney McCall what procedure would be followed to create an assessment district if same should be desired. Attorney McCall advised that the assessment district could be created on petition of the property owners.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communications be referred to the City Council as a whole for investigation and report. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from J. E. McMaster, Fire Chief, and J. H. Stroh, Police Chief, advising that a survey of the Torrance Oil Field had been made, disclosing that a great number of sump holes should be eliminated. Locations of a number of such objectionable sump holes were given, with the recommendation to eliminate them. A list of inactive oil wells was also submitted, together with the name and address of the operators.

Attorney McCall advised that the \$5,000.00 bond posted by the driller of the well could be dedicated to abandoning and cleaning up of wells which have not been completed.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that both the property owner and the lease holder of the wells having open sump holes be notified of the condition of the sumps, and be requested to eliminate the hazard as recommended by Chief McMaster. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett was instructed to direct communications to the proper persons in compliance with the above stated motion.

A communication was read from D. J. Snyder, per Mrs. Wm. Day, regarding a wash house being rebuilt at 1604 Date Avenue. A description of the building as it will appear upon completion was given.

Councilman Powell commented that he had received several telephonic complaints regarding this matter and asked that the entire Council arrange to look at the building. He said he personally feels the building is below standard, and that the persons who have registered complaints are entirely justified in doing so, since they are striving to preserve the present value of their property.

Engineer Jain read a report which related all the facts regarding this building since the time it was first brought to the attention of the Engineering Department several weeks ago, and, as part of the report, recommended that the building be allowed to stand.

Councilman Powell maintained that the building should not be allowed to stand, regardless of the City Engineer's recommendation. Two ladies in the audience interrupted the proceedings at this time, voicing approval of Mr. Jain's recommendation, stating that the building has been greatly improved and urging that it be allowed to stand. They refused to divulge their names upon being requested to do so for the record.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the entire Council make an inspection and investigation of the building and submit a decision to the City Engineer, September 30, 1940 at 4:30 being agreed upon as a suitable time for the investigation. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the division of Highways, together with memorandum of agreement for expenditure of $\frac{1}{4}$ gas tax for Streets of Major Importance within the City of Torrance for the 1941 fiscal year. A suggested form of resolution for execution of the agreement was attached.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1401

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF TORRANCE ADOPTING BUDGET AND APPROVING MEMOR-
ANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR EXPENDITURE OF $\frac{1}{4}$ CENT GAS
TAX ALLOCATED FOR STREETS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1401 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMENT: None.

Councilman Hitchcock advised that anyone so desiring could examine the map Engineer Jain has showing the proposed improvement of Torrance Boulevard for which the above $\frac{1}{4}$ cent gas tax allocation is made.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1402

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING PRELIMINARY MAP OF JOB PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENT OF TORRANCE BOULEVARD BETWEEN WESTERN AVENUE AND ELM STREET IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1402 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1403

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING SETTLEMENT COVERING LIQUIDATION OF INDEBTEDNESS OF 1915 ACT DISTRICT.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1403 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 320

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING TRESPASS UPON, AND LOITERING ABOUT, CERTAIN CLASSES OF PROPERTY.

Councilman Babcock moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 320 be dispensed with. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that Ordinance No. 320 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire requested that several copies of the paper be obtained when the Ordinance is printed and that the printed copies of said ordinance be mailed to various industries and utility companies throughout the city who might be interested in or affected by passage of same. Clerk Bartlett was instructed to attend to this matter.

An invoice was submitted by Howard G. Locke (Travelers Insurance Company) for renewal of the automobile fleet insurance for the period October 13, 1940 to October 13, 1941. Mr. Locke was requested to meet with the Council for discussion of the matter before any action is taken.

Engineer Jain asked the opinion of the Council regarding a matter brought to his attention recently, namely, a new nursery business at the corner of Sonoma and Elm Streets, owned by Merton Gilbert, license for said business having been granted April 2, 1940, prior to adoption of the zoning ordinance, which ordinance places this district in the single family residence classification. Mr. Jain added that a building permit had not been obtained for construction of the lath house.

Mr. Gilbert stated he discussed the matter with Engineer Young, who had informed him (Mr. Gilbert) that he could operate the business provided he obtained his license before the zoning ordinance became effective. With regard to the building permit, Mr. Gilbert pointed out that, since construction of the lath house will not exceed \$50.00, no building permit is required, according to information given him by the Engineering Department.

Engineer Jain was instructed to check further into the matter and obtain Attorney McCall's opinion as to whether or not the ordinance has been violated.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS


Mr. Gilbert asked whether he should proceed with construction of his lath house. He was instructed to await a decision from Engineer Jain on the matter.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mr. Isen, representing the corporation interested in the village of Pueblo, read the two communications received concerning sewage conditions at Pueblo and commented that every house in the village is equipped with proper plumbing facilities. Mr. Isen invited anyone interested to inspect the dwellings.

After much discussion, upon the suggestion of Councilman Murray it was finally decided that the interested persons who submitted communications, Mr. Isen and the Council should meet for further discussion of the matter.

At 8:50 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Hitchcock, the meeting adjourned.


City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved:


Mayor of the City of Torrance